



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Clergy, Liturgy Coordinators, Music Directors, and Wedding Coordinators  
**FROM:** Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director, Office for Worship  
**RE:** **2026 LITURGICAL NOTES FOR THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE (Year A, Cycle II)**  
**DATE:** July 15, 2025

This memorandum provides calendar information to support parishes in planning for the 2025–2026 Liturgical Year in the Diocese of Orange. The dates and guidelines included are based on the *Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America*, published by the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and on the General Roman Calendar.

Please note the following Holy Days of Obligation in our diocese for 2025 and 2026:

- **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – August 15, 2025 (only)
- **Solemnity of All Saints** – November 1, 2026 (only)
  - **Saturday, November 1, 2025**, is the *Solemnity of All Saints*. However, in accordance with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2, as confirmed for the dioceses of the United States, the obligation to attend Mass is **abrogated** when the solemnity falls on a Saturday.
- **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – December 8 (Patroness of the United States)
- **Christmas** – December 25

Pastors are encouraged to provide practical opportunities for parishioners to attend Mass on these days by offering Vigil Masses (where permitted) and adding additional Masses at convenient times.

The 2026 Liturgical Year will begin on the **First Sunday of Advent**, November 30, 2025.

**Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church:** This occasion is to be celebrated as a Solemnity within the parish, unless it falls on a day of higher liturgical rank. [*The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar*, Chapter II, no. 27; *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. R10.]



**Memorial of the Parish's Patron(s):** The feast day of the parish's patron saint(s) is likewise to be celebrated as Solemnity within the parish, unless impeded by a day of higher rank. [*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar* (Pope Paul VI, 1969), no. 59, Table of Liturgical Days I, no. 4a.]

**Funeral Masses:** Funeral Masses may be celebrated on all days except:

- Solemnities that are holy days of obligation
- Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter
- Holy Thursday
- Days of the Easter Triduum

On these days, the funeral rites should consist of a Liturgy of the Word followed by the Rite of Final Commendation (Farewell), as outlined in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, Part I, no. 4 (nos. 177–203). [*ORDO*, Masses for the Dead.]

**Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Outside of Advent, Christmas Time, Lent, and Easter Time, on Saturdays where no Obligatory Memorial or higher-ranking celebration occurs, an **Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary** may be observed. [*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 15.]

The prayers and readings may be chosen from the *Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, the *Votive Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in the *Roman Missal*, or the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.

**Marriage Celebrations and Liturgical Constraints:** This memorandum also provides guidance for **wedding coordinators**, particularly regarding days when the *Mass for Celebrating Matrimony* (a ritual Mass) is not permitted. In such cases, two options are available:

**1. Celebration within a regular Mass:**

- Use the *Mass of the day*
- Include the *Nuptial Blessing*
- Use the appropriate formula for the *final blessing*, if applicable
- One reading may be selected from the Lectionary texts for the celebration of Marriage (nos. 801–805)



## 2. Celebration without Mass:

- Use the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* (Chapter II of *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*).

These options allow for the dignity of the sacrament to be upheld while observing the liturgical norms of the day.

### **Dates to remember for the rest of 2025 Liturgical Year (Year C, Cycle I)**

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Thu)

#### **Dedication of Christ Cathedral**

The anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral is observed with the rank of Feast at churches and chapels in the Diocese of Orange. At Christ Cathedral, the anniversary is observed as a Solemnity.

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

#### **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Pope Francis designated the 4th Sunday of July (closest to the memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne) to be "World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly."

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Wed)

#### **St. Emydius, bishop and martyr**

Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange in California.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Fri)**

#### **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)**

Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted.

***Holy Day of Obligation***

September 14<sup>th</sup> – 20, 2025

#### **Third week of September/Special Days of Prayer, Harvest and Fruits of the Earth**

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

#### **Catechetical Sunday**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**National Migration Week**, moved to the last week in September.

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

#### **Priesthood Sunday**



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October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

**Respect Life Sunday**

Please note that the month of October is Respect Life Month.

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

**World Mission Sunday**

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 (Thu)

**Saint John of Capistrano**, secondary patron of the Diocese of Orange. Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 (Sat)**

**All Saints Day** (Solemnity)

Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.

***Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.***

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

**Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)**

Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**National Vocation Awareness Week**

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
(Solemnity)

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Thu)

**Thanksgiving Day**



**2026 Liturgical Year (Year A, Cycle II)**

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Sun)

**First Sunday of Advent**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Mon)**

**The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary**  
(Solemnity)  
(Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America)  
Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted. (Solemnity)  
***Holy Day of Obligation this year.***

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Fri)

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)**  
Solemnity in our Diocese  
Principal patroness of the Diocese of Orange.  
Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. (Solemnity)  
***Not a Holy Day of Obligation***

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Thu)**

**The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas (Solemnity)**  
Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. (Solemnity)  
***Holy Day of Obligation***

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Thu)

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)**  
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord  
Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted.  
***Not a Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Orange***

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
(Solemnity)

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)**  
End of the Christmas Season

January 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
For resources, please go to the website:  
<https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en.html>  
and  
[http://www.geii.org/week\\_of\\_prayer\\_for\\_christian\\_unity/index.html](http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/index.html)



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January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Thu)

### **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

Particular Day of Penance

*Masses “shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life **in all the USA** (and the world) and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion” (GIRM #373). The readings for Mass can be found in the new Lectionary for Mass Supplement (1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/ Mk 3:7-12 [314]). For the Day of Prayer, the reading from the “Lectionary for Mass Supplement,” or any of the readings from the “Lectionary for Mass” from the section “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” (nos. 947A-947E) or from “For Peace and Justice” (nos. 887-891) could be used.*

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

### **Word of God Sunday**

Observed as a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God”. For more information: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Mon)

### **Presentation of the Lord and World Day for Consecrated Life**

For resources go to: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-consecrated-life>

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Fri)

### **World Marriage Day, First Friday in February.**

For clergy and parish resources go to:

<http://wmd.wwme.org>

More information about a diocesan celebration honoring wedding anniversaries is to follow by the Office for Family Life. For more information contact that office at (714) 282-4203/6059.

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sat)

### **World Day of the Sick**

Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11th)

In our Diocese a special Celebration for World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday, February 14th at Christ Cathedral at 10:00 am. There will be anointing of the sick and a blessing for those who care for the sick.

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February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Wed)

**Ash Wednesday**

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Ritual Masses (i.e. Celebration of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.

February 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Rite of Election**

(for Catechumens to be initiated at the Easter Vigil)

In the Diocese of Orange, the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversation will be held at Christ Cathedral on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, February 21<sup>th</sup>; Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Date assignments for parishes will be sent in Early December 2025. Priests should ensure that one or more occasions are scheduled for the anointing of catechumens with the Oil of Catechumens, following the Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate and prior to the Easter Vigil.

March 15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Fourth Week of Lent/Special Days of Prayer,**  
General Needs of Humankind

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Wed)

**The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)**

Ritual Masses (i.e. Celebration of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Mon)

**Chrism Mass**

at 5:30 PM at Christ Cathedral.

Ritual Masses (i.e. Celebration of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.

*All the faithful are invited to participate in this Mass. The teens preparing for Confirmation are to be especially encouraged to witness the consecration of the Holy Chrism Oil.*

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Thu)

**Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Ritual Masses including Funeral masses are not permitted.



April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 (Fri)

**Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)**

Ritual Masses including Funeral masses are not permitted.

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sat)

**Holy Saturday**

Easter Vigil after 7:50 PM

Ritual Masses including Funeral masses are not permitted

*The entire celebration of the Vigil is to take place at night: it should begin after nightfall and end before the dawn of Sunday. Please note that there is to be only one Easter Vigil: for pastoral reasons an additional Mass may be celebrated after the Mass of the Easter Vigil using the liturgy of the Word of the Mass of the Easter Vigil and omitting the Service of Light. The intention of the Missale Romanum is clear: the Easter Vigil is to take place in darkness.*

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Although not given the title of Solemnity, “[t]he first eight days of Easter Time constitute the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord” [*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no.24]. A double ‘Alleluia’ is added to the dismissal with the response at Mass. Ritual Masses, such as the Celebration of Matrimony, are not permitted during this time; however, Funeral Masses are allowed.

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)**

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Thu)

**The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)**

*Our ecclesiastical province (and most dioceses in USA) has transferred this Solemnity from Thursday, May 14th to Sunday, May 17th. Thursday, May 14th is observed as the Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle.*

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)**

Celebrated in the Diocese of Orange.





May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Pentecost (Solemnity)**

*The extended Vigil Mass for Pentecost has additional readings, each with its own responsorial psalm. The Pentecost Sequence, “Veni Sancte Spiritus,” is obligatory on Pentecost Sunday and may be omitted at the Vigil. It is fitting to use the sprinkling rite on this day and the Paschal candle is to be lit at all masses. The Paschal Candle is moved to the baptistery after the last Mass or Vespers, which concludes the Easter Season.*

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Mon)

**The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**

This Obligatory Memorial has its own proper found under Votive Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary, option #10B, Our Lady, Mother of the Church. There are also readings proper for the day (Lectionary no. 1002). Additionally, proper text for Liturgy of the Hours can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/motherofthechurch>.

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**The Most Holy Trinity (Solemnity)**

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**USA: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - Corpus Christi (Solemnity)**

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Fri)

**The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)**

Ritual Masses (i.e. Celebration of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Fourth Week of June/Special Days of Prayer,  
Religious Freedom Week**

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Wed)

**Saint Junípero Serra**

Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange in California.

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners**

Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange in California. This Marian feast honors the first patroness of California, established by Bishop Garcia Diego in 1843.

***Not celebrated this year.***



July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Fri)

**Dedication of Christ Cathedral**

The anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral is observed with the rank of Feast at churches and chapels in the Diocese of Orange. At Christ Cathedral, the anniversary is observed as a Solemnity.

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Pope Francis designated the 4th Sunday of July (closest to the memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne) to be "World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly."

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Thu)

**St. Emydius, bishop and martyr**

Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange in California.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sat)**

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Ritual Masses (i.e., Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted. (Solemnity)

***Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.***

September 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Third Week of September/Special Days of Prayer,**  
Harvest and Fruits of the Earth

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Catechetical Sunday**

September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**National Migration Week**, last week in September.

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Priesthood Sunday**

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Respect Life Sunday**

Please note that the month of October is Respect Life Month.

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**World Mission Sunday**

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 (Fri)

**Saint John of Capistrano**, secondary patron of the Diocese of Orange.  
Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese of Orange

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Sun)**

**All Saints Day** (Solemnity)

Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are permitted.



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November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Mon)

**Commemoration of All the Faithful departed (All Souls' Day)**

Ritual Masses (i.e. Order of Matrimony) are not permitted. Funeral masses are not permitted.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**National Vocation Awareness Week**

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Sun)

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
(Solemnity)

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Thu)

**Thanksgiving Day**

Please feel free to contact the Office for Worship, (714) 282- 4283 / 3117 or email at [jvenegas@rcbo.org](mailto:jvenegas@rcbo.org) / [aarbizo@rcbo.org](mailto:aarbizo@rcbo.org) should you have any questions.